

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

231451Z Oct 00

CONFIDENTIAL PTO0518

PAGE 01 HARARE 05951 231447Z  
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/008W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7427  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 005951

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY

PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/23/10

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: IMPEACHMENT OF MUGABE LOOMING

REFTEL: HARARE 5829

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 05951 231447Z  
CLASSIFIED CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING. REASONS:  
1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) IN A MEETING OCTOBER 23, MDC MP FOR HARARE CENTRAL MICHAEL AURET INFORMED POLOFF THAT THE MDC PLANS TO GIVE NOTICE OCTOBER 24 IN PARLIAMENT THAT IT WILL TABLE A MOTION FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT MUGABE THE FOLLOWING WEEK. AURET CLAIMED THAT THE MDC HAS COMPILED "OVERWHELMING" EVIDENCE THAT MUGABE DIRECTED THE CAMPAIGN OF MASS TERROR AGAINST FARMERS, THEIR WORKERS, AND OTHER OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE JUNE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. THE MDC PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WILL ATTEMPT TO GET THE MOTION ON A SECRET BALLOT SO THAT MPS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE CAN VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE WITHOUT FEAR OF RETRIBUTION. THE SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER WERE ELECTED BY SECRET BALLOT, AURET SAID, AND HE HOPED THAT THE SAME COULD BE DONE WITH THE IMPEACHMENT MEASURE. IF AT LEAST 50 MPS VOTE IN FAVOR, THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THAT A SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT EXIST. A SEPARATE VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF PARLIAMENT (100 VOTES) WOULD THEN BE REQUIRED TO IMPEACH MUGABE. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH MPS WILLING TO CROSS THE AISLE TO IMPEACH MUGABE, BUT IF EVEN A FEW ZANU-PF MPS VOTED WITH THE MDC ON THIS ISSUE, IT WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW TO THE PRESIDENT, AURET OPINED.

2. (C) MDC MP TENDAI BITI TOLD USAIDOFFS THAT THE MDC PLANS TO TABLE A SECOND MOTION THAT WOULD CLARIFY THE STANDING RULES ON IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURE, WHICH IS NOT  
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PAGE 03 HARARE 05951 231447Z  
SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL IN THE CONSTITUTION. ACCORDING TO BITI, THE MDC IS SEEKING AN IMPEACHMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NUMBER OF SEATS IT HAS IN PARLIAMENT AND ONE THAT CAN HOLD HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. CURRENTLY, THE SPEAKER HAS THE POWER TO APPOINT ALL THE SEATS ON THE COMMITTEE, AND HE COULD ALSO SHELVE THE ISSUE WITHOUT DEBATE. THE MDC DOES NOT EXPECT TO ACTUALLY REMOVE MUGABE FROM OFFICE THIS WAY, BUT IT HOPES TO MAKE THE PROCESS MORE DEMOCRATIC, SAYS BITI. WELSHMAN NCUBE, THE MDC SECRETARY-GENERAL, TOLD USAIDOFFS THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE MUGABE WOULD DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT TO HEAD OFF IMPEACHMENT. SUCH A MOVE WOULD REQUIRE NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WITHIN 90 DAYS, AND ZANU-PF IS MORE AFRAID OF AN ELECTION DEFEAT NOW THAN IT WAS IN JUNE, ACCORDING TO NCUBE. INSTEAD, THE ZANU-PF POLITBURO WAS DUE TO HAVE MET THIS PAST WEEKEND TO DEBATE THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE IMPEACHMENT EFFORT BEFORE IT REACHES THE FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK, ACCORDING TO NCUBE. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT HEARD WHETHER THIS MEETING IN FACT TOOK PLACE. END COMMENT.)

13. (C) COMMENT: NCUBE'S REMARKS MAKE SENSE TO A POINT:  
MUGABE IS MORE LIKELY TO DECLARE MARTIAL LAW BEFORE HE  
DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT TO STAVE OFF HIS IMPEACHMENT. (A  
STATE OF EMERGENCY WOULD REQUIRE PARLIAMENT'S APPROVAL,  
WHEREAS MARTIAL LAW WOULD NOT.) HOWEVER, IT IS  
DEBATABLE WHETHER MUGABE WOULD GO TO SUCH LENGTHS BEFORE  
PARLIAMENT ACTS ON A MEASURE THAT HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF  
SUCCESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE A  
SCENARIO IN WHICH A LARGE NUMBER OF ZANU-PF "YOUNG  
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PAGE 04 HARARE 05951 231447Z  
TURKS" (SEE REFTTEL) VOTE FOR THE IMPEACHMENT MEASURE  
NEXT WEEK ON A SECRET BALLOT, AND THE MDC FOLLOWS  
THROUGH ON ITS MASS ACTION PLANS AT THE SAME TIME.  
ALTHOUGH WE JUDGE THE PROBABILITY OF IT COMING OFF AS  
LOW, THIS SITUATION COULD MAKE MUGABE FEEL THREATENED  
ENOUGH TO IMPOSE MARTIAL LAW. END COMMENT.

IRVING

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